

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 2-5, and 11. Also, please amend claims 1 and 10. Furthermore, please add claims 23-27, all as indicated in the following claims listing:

Claim 1 (currently amended). An apparatus for electrically connecting two objects together, comprising:

a first object which has a first connective surface defined thereon;
a row of first electrical contacts supported on the first connective surface;
a second object which has a second connective surface defined thereon;
a row of second electrical contacts supported on the second connective surface and configured to contact the first electrical contacts; and,
a guide that allows a ridge defined on the first connective surface, wherein the row of first contacts is supported on, and substantially parallel to, the ridge; and
an open-ended trough defined on the second connective surface, wherein the row of second contacts is supported in, and substantially parallel to, the trough
~~the first and second objects to be placed adjacent to one another in facilitation of electrical connection therebetween by substantially constraining movement of the first object relative to the second object to a given direction and along a continuous path of movement which is substantially parallel to the row of first electrical contacts.~~

Claims 2-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object and which is configured to engage the first object when moved so as to substantially align the first electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in order to facilitate electrical connection therebetween.

Claim 7 (original). The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and second connective surfaces are substantially parallel and in juxtaposed relation when the first and second objects are electrically connected.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first
2 electrical contacts are resiliently flexible, and are configured to be deflected when the
3 first and second objects are electrically connected.

4 Claim 9 (cancelled).

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6 Claim 10 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim [[5]]1, and wherein the first
7 and second objects are configured such that the ridge and the trough can be
8 engaged and disengaged by movement of the first object relative to the second
9 object along [[the]]a substantially continuous path of movement that is substantially
parallel to the ridge and to the trough in the given direction.

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11 Claim 11 (canceled).

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13 Claim 12 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising
14 an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and
wherein:

15 a first cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to
16 contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to
17 substantially align the first electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a
lateral direction that is substantially normal to the path of movement; and,

18 a second cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured
19 to contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to
20 substantially align the first electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a
fore-and-aft direction that is substantially parallel to the path of movement.

21
22 Claim 13 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 6, and wherein the
23 alignment member is configured to engage the first object so as to substantially lock
24 the first and second objects together.

1 Claim 14 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising
2 an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and
3 wherein a cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to
4 contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to cause
5 substantial alignment of the first electrical contacts with the second electrical
6 contacts in a lateral direction that is substantially normal to the path of movement.

7
8 Claim 15 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 12, and wherein a third
9 cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to resiliently
10 deflect the second electrical contacts during movement of the alignment member so
11 as to selectively cause the second electrical contacts to contact the first electrical
12 contacts after substantial alignment thereof.

13
14 Claim 16 (original). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the third cam surface is
15 further configured to move independently with respect to the first and second cam
16 surfaces.

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18 Claims 17-20 (cancelled).

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20 Claim 21 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising
21 an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and
22 wherein a cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to
23 contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to
24 substantially align the first electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a
25 fore-and-aft direction that is substantially parallel to the path of movement.

26
27 Claim 22 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising
28 an alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and
29 wherein a cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to
30 resiliently deflect the second electrical contacts during movement of the alignment
31 member so as to selectively cause the second electrical contacts to contact the first
32 electrical contacts after placement of the first and second objects adjacent to
33 one another.

1 Claim 23 (new). The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising a rack on which
2 the first and second objects can be removably supported, wherein when the first and
3 second objects are in respective fully supported positions on the rack, the ridge is
4 matingly engaged with the trough.

5 Claim 24 (new). The apparatus of claim 23, and further comprising a plurality of
6 guides supported by the rack, wherein the guides are configured to:

7 support the first and second objects when in the fully supported position; and

8 substantially constrain movement of the first and second objects, while being
9 placed into and removed from the respective fully supported positions, to a
10 substantially straight and continuous path of movement.

11 Claim 25 (new). The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the path of movement is
12 substantially parallel to the ridge and to the trough when the first and second objects
13 are in the respective fully supported positions.

14 Claim 26 (new). The apparatus of claim 23, and further comprising a plurality of
15 guides supported by the rack, wherein the guides are configured to:

16 Support the first and second objects when in the fully supported position; and

17 Substantially constrain movement of the first and second objects, while in
18 contact with at least one guide, to a substantially straight and continuous path of
19 movement.

20 Claim 27 (new). The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the path of movement is
21 substantially parallel to the ridge and to the trough when the first and second objects
22 are in the respective fully supported positions.

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24 -- End of Amendments --
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